

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. James Armstrong on June 10, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the abstract: combine the two paragraphs into one.

In the claims:

Claim 4, line 1, delete "3" and insert --1--.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the aqueous chloride solution further contains ~~iron~~ and silver as the another concomitant elements.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 2, wherein the aqueous chloride solution further contains ~~iron~~ and silver as the another concomitant elements.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 4, wherein the aqueous chloride solution further contains ~~iron~~ and silver as the another concomitant elements.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 6, wherein the aqueous chloride solution further contains ~~iron~~ and silver as ~~the~~ another concomitant elements.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach or suggest a process for solvent extraction of copper by mixing an aqueous chloride containing copper and iron as a concomitant element with an extractant of organic solvent after adjusting the solution at an oxidation-reduction potential of 0-350 mV (based on an Ag/AgCl electrode) and stripping the copper. The prior art does not recognize that by adjusting the oxidation-reduction potential within the above range, the cupric and ferric ions are reduced into the cuprous and ferrous ions, and the cuprous ion is selectively extracted by a solvating extractant (note instant specification, last paragraph on page 9). The criticality of the oxidation-reduction potential is evidenced in Figures 2-3.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The Declaration filed April 23, 2008 has been considered and it effectively shows that the reference invention is not by "another." The reference Ando 2004/0144208 is no longer available as a reference.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1356. The examiner can normally be reached on Part time schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached on (571) 272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1793

nmm  
July 7, 2008